## WHAT I CLAIM IS:

of receiving a video signal and associated audio signal if present, receiving a programme classification code descriptive of said video signal, comparing said code with a pre-selected subset of codes, and according to the result of said comparison, causing an alternative source of video signal to be selected for display.

- 2. A video programme reception method according to claim 1, wherein the alternative source of video signal originates from a remote transmitter.
- 3. A video programme-reception method according to claim 1, wherein the alternative source of video signal is local to the receiving station.
- 4. A video programme reception method according to claim 1, including the steps of inputting from the user a personal identity number, comparing said number to a stored number, and if said numbers are equal, permitting the user to alter the response resulting from receipt of various classification codes.
- 5. A video programme reception method according to claim 4, wherein the alternative source of video signal originates from a source remote to the receiver.
- 6. A video programme reception method according to claim 4, wherein the alternative source of video signal is local to the receiving station.
- 7. A video programme reception method according to claim 6, wherein the alternative source of video signal is a local video pattern generator equipped to generate at least a black pattern.
- A video programme reception method according to claim 1, wherein the programme classification code is encoded into the video component of the programme.

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B A video programme reception method according to claim 4, wherein the programme classification code is encoded into the video component of the programme.

A video programme reception method according to claim 1, wherein the programme classification code is encoded into the audio component of the programme.

103 A video programme reception method according to claim 4, wherein the programme classification code is encoded into the audio component of the programme.

B 12. A video programme reception method according to claim 1, B wherein the programme classification code is not encoded into the programme being received but is received from a separate source.

B 18. A video programme reception method according to claim 4, wherein the programme classification code is not encoded into the programme being received but is received from a separate source.

14. A video programme receiver comprising a video signal receiver, a programme classification code receiver, means for comparing received codes with a pre-selected set of codes, and selector means equipped to cause an alternative source of video signal to be selected for display according to the result of said comparison.

- 15. A video programme receiver according to claim 14, wherein the alternative source of video signal originates from a remote transmitter.
- 16. A video programme receiver according to claim 14, wherein the alternative source of video signal is local to the receiving station.

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17. A video programme receiver according to claim 14, including means for inputting from the user a personal identity number, means for comparing said number to a stored number, and control means permitting the user to alter the response resulting from receipt of various classification codes only if the compared numbers are equal.

- 18. A video programme receiver according to claim 17, wherein the alternative source of video signal originates from a source remote to the receiver.
  - 19. A video programme receiver according to claim 17, wherein the alternative source of video signal is local to the receiving station.
  - B 20. A video programme receiver according to claim 19, wherein the alternative source of video signal is a local video pattern generator equipped to generate at least a black pattern.
- 20,3 21. A video programme receiver according to claim 14, g including means for deriving the programme classification code B from the video component of the programme.
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    322. A video programme receiver according to claim 17,
    B including means for deriving the programme classification code
    from the video component of the programme.
- B 23. A video programme receiver according to claim 14,

  B including means for deriving the programme classification code

  from the audio component of the programme.
  - 324. A video programme receiver according to claim 17,
    including means for deriving the programme classification code
    from the audio component of the programme.
  - 3. A video programme receiver according to claim 14,
     including means for receiving programme classification code
     from a source other than the programme being received.

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- 26. A video programme receiver according to claim 17, including means for receiving programme classification code from a source other than the programme being received.
- 27. A video programme reception method substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
  - 28. A video programme receiver substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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